

Claim 10. (Previously presented) Application of the method according to one of the preceding claims 1 and 2, for forming conductor structures on the fluoropolymer surfaces by structuring of the obtained metal layers with suitable etch resists and subsequent etching away of the metal layer regions not forming the conductor structures, or by structuring of the fluoropolymer surfaces with suitable resists and subsequent deposition of metal layers in the regions of the fluoropolymer surfaces forming the conductor structures.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) Application of the method according to one of claims 1 to 2 for forming a mask for plasma etching in the fluoropolymer surfaces by structuring of the obtained metal surfaces with suitable etch resists and subsequent etching away of the metal layer regions not forming the mask, or by structuring of the fluoropolymer surfaces with suitable resists and subsequent deposition of metal layers in the regions of the fluoropolymer surfaces forming the mask.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-11 are pending in this application. Claims 6 and 7 are canceled. The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. No new matter is added. The features in the claims as amended were present in the originally filed specification.

The features of canceled claim 7 which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter and the features of claim 6 from which claim 7 previously depended is now included in claim 1.

Claim 8 which previously depended from claim 6 now depends from one of claims 1 or 2.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 7 on the grounds that the Claim contained the phrase "20 μm ". It is respectfully submitted that the objection is moot as Claim 7 has been canceled. The corresponding feature in claim 1 now reads "20 nm".

35 USC 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, on the grounds that the claims were allegedly vague and indefinite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn since the objected to language is no longer included in the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states on page 5 that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-5 and 8-11 as amended are allowable as the claims now include the features of canceled claim 7. It is submitted that the claims are allowable due to their incorporation of the features set forth above.

Accordingly, it is requested that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

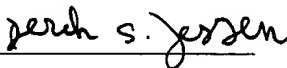
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants' present invention, as recited in the amended claims now more clearly and particularly, is patentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and objections in this case is hereby respectfully requested.

If further matters remain in connection with this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative to resolve them.

Respectfully submitted,

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